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COUNTRY	Czechoslovakia	25X1	REPORT NO.	
TOPIC	12th PS Brigade in Plana	25X1		
EVALUATION		25X1	PLACE OBTAINED	
DATE OF CONTENT		25X1		
DATE OBTAINED			DATE PREPARED	22 July 1953
REFERENCES				
PAGES	2	ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)		
REMARKS				

1. All PS (Border Guard) brigades were subordinate to Unit [] which was stationed at Praha and was commanded by Colonel Hlavacka (fnu), who came to Zadni Chodov in September 1952 to inspect the recruits of the 12th PS Brigade. [] 25X1
[] General Smoldas (fnu), in connection with Unit [] 25X1
[] the brigades in Cheb, Susice and Pomezovice were subordinate to Unit [] 25X1
and specified no other brigades controlled by this unit.
2. The 12th PS Brigade was stationed at Plana (N 50/P 55) and [] 25X1
Officers assigned to the brigade included Captain Janu (fnu), brigade commander, about 35 years old; Lieutenant Reitmeier (fnu), political officer, about 40 years old; and Captain Kuvarik (fnu), chief of staff, about 35 years old. The brigade headquarters was in the Plana Castle. 25X1 25X1
3. Units directly controlled by the brigade headquarters included: The PS Reserve Battalion (zalozni oddil PS) in the Plana Castle: This battalion numbered about 400 men, who were equipped with rifles and submachine guns and an unidentified number of light machine guns and heavy machine guns and guarded all installations of the brigade headquarters, and was also destined for commitment on the border, 25X1
[]
The size of the submachine guns was 7.62 or 7.65 mm.
The Heavy Machine Gun Company (rota TK) in Plana: This company numbered about 60 men and was equipped with submachine guns and 25 model-37 heavy machine guns, which were carried as pack by the men. The mission of the company was commitment on the border in case of alert.
The Engineer Company (zenitni rota PS) in Plana: This company was a labor unit of frequently varying size and included only a limited number of men equipped with rifles. The majority had no weapons since the soldiers were reassigned for punishment and had to work in the area of the brigade as required.
The Motor Unit in Plana: This unit was located in a repair shop outside the castle and employed 15 automobile mechanics, who maintained the motor vehicles of the brigade. The shop also quartered 40 drivers, who together with the mechanics formed a unit which was briefly called "autodilny" (motor-vehicle repair shop) by the EM, who were equipped with model 25 submachine guns.

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The PS Reserve Battalion (zalozni oddil PS) in Chodova Plana (N 50/P 55): 25X1
 this battalion existed on 1 July 1952 25X1

The Heavy Machine Gun Unit in Tachov (N 50/P 54): this 25X1
 unit (company?) belonged to the PS brigade in Plana. 25X1

The mission assigned to this unit was to execute the mission of the abovementioned heavy machine gun company in Plana.

The PS NCO School in Plana: Recruits from all PS training units of the brigade were sent to this school after the completion of basic training. Each course of instruction allegedly lasted six months.

the trainees were equipped with rifles, model 25 submachine guns, light machine guns and heavy machine guns.

The Signal Company in Plana: this unit existed and was equipped with a radio station. The men of the unit maintained and repaired the telephone network.

The Mortar Unit in Tachov:

4. The four battalions which were committed on the border sector of the brigade included the I Bn in Dolny Zandov (N 51/P 46); the II Bn in Halze (N 50/P 44); the III Bn in Lesna (N 50/P 43); and the IV Bn in Rozvadov (N 50/P 43). The III Bn included the 11th through 15th Cos. A PS training center for horsemen, to which newly inducted recruits were assigned for training in July 1952, was also stationed at Lesna.

5. Officers assigned to the unit included Lieutenant romajer, (fnu), battalion commander, 40 years old; Lieutenant Tichy, (fnu), general deputy, about 45 years old; and Technical Sergeant Simice, (fnu), political officer, 25 years old. The battalion headquarters included the reserve company in Rozvadov, which numbered about 80 men and was equipped with model 98-N rifles, model 25 submachine guns, an unidentified number of light and heavy machine guns and several recoilless AT rifles. The battalion headquarters also controlled a signal unit, which was stationed at Rozvadov.

6. The 16th PS Company was stationed at Jedlina and numbered about 54 men, who were organized into five squads including one heavy machine gun squad and one dog-handler squad. The unit had four untrained dogs, which were more burdensome than useful. It was equipped with 15 model 98-N rifles and model 25 submachine guns. Since at least one man per patrol had to carry a rifle, the rifles were passed on as required. The company also had one model 37 heavy machine gun, four model 26 light machine guns, four bazookas, four German-made rifles with telescopic sights and 1,000 hand grenades. The unit had one cart drawn by a two-horse team, two riding horses and one Jawa-250 motorcycle. At about Christmas 1952, the company received a radio set, which the only signal man of the unit carried on alert practices.

7. The 17th Company was stationed at Hranicky and the 18th Company was stationed at Novy Dvur. The IV Bn also controlled the 19th and 20th Cos, which were stationed at unknown posts. 1

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8. The border sector of the 16th Co was about 2 km wide and was guarded by stationary and mobile patrols. Each patrol consisted of two men. They had no machine guns. The locations of the stationary patrols were constantly changed. Fortifications in the sector of the company included small machine-gun emplacements, which were foxholes lined with boards and topped by thin covers, and coherent fire trenches for the defense of the billets. Knife rests were in front of the fire trenches. No trenches were hitherto constructed along the state border. The wire entanglement on the border was 50 to 800 meters from the state border and consisted of three parallel barbed-wire fences, 2 meters high. The middle fence was topped by four petticoat-mounted wires fed with current by a transformer at the billets of the company. The EM were told that the current had a 3,500 voltage. The tracing strip was to the right wing of the company and, on the west side of the wire entanglement, extended over about 200 meters. Trip-wire mines were laid between the western and middle fences. The eastern fence was equipped with signal rockets interconnected with wires which released the signals on touching.
9. The EM were frequently instructed that at the outbreak of war or in the case of a raid by the enemy the companies would be assembled at the battalion headquarters. Company sectors which consisted of terrain passable for tanks would not be defended. The men assembled at the battalion headquarters would have to defend themselves until the arrival of reinforcements with aid expected from the Bor post near Tachov. Companies in charge of sectors impassable for tanks and suitable only for attacks of enemy infantry should defend their area themselves until the arrival of the reinforcements. ²

10. The establishing of a so-called "Interior Service" (vnitrni sluzba) in Czechoslovakia was common gossip. The units of this organization allegedly had to guard industrial installations. ¹ some members of this organization in Plana. They wore standard army uniforms with pink epaulets and, on the reverses of their blouses, sheet-metal insignia, which consisted of a semicircular linden twig topped by a sword whose point mounted a small, red, five-pointed star. ³
11. In March 1953, members of the 1929 through 1932 classes served with the 16th Co. Members of the 1931 class were outnumbered by members of the 1932 and 1930 classes. Only a limited number of members of the 1929 class still served with the company. Except for one Slovak all EM were Czechs. More Slovaks allegedly served with other companies. All PS soldiers were assigned directly to the PS brigade in Plana on their induction. ⁴

12. ¹ It was common gossip that the rest of the members of the 1932 class subject to the draft will be inducted as late as November 1954 and will be assigned to the companies only in early 1955, which would mean that soldiers inducted on 1 July 1952 who normally ought to be discharged in July 1954 would have to expect a prolongation of the period of their active duty by about nine months. ²
- ³ a brigade order read to the men in March 1953, three days after Stalin's death, announced this regulation. The PS officers said that the period of active service was scheduled to be extended for army units also. Soldiers inducted in April and July 1952 allegedly had to serve longer, while soldiers inducted in November 1952 had to expect no extension of the period of their active duty. ⁵

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1. 25X1
- 25X1 2. Comment. Elements of the 18th Mtz Rifle Regt of the 11th Mtz Rifle Div are stationed at Bor.
- 25X1 3. Comment. The men certainly meant the Interior Guard (Vnitrni straz) (VVS)
- 25X1 4. Comment. The 1929 class was inducted in the fall of 1950 and the fall of 1951. The 1930 and 1931 classes were inducted from the fall of 1951 to the fall of 1952, and the induction of the 1932 class commenced in the fall of 1952. PS recruits are inducted in summer.
- 25X1 5. Comment. The statements are incredible. The next date of induction of PS recruits is July 1953. Presumably, there were only rumors on an intended extension of the period of active service. This office believes that a general extension to three years is necessary since after the reduction of the age of induction only two classes are on active duty, which would not suffice to maintain the actual strength of the units.

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